

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 219092  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:SHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:FOLLOWAY

S/S-0:RSNIDER

-----005838 291719Z /44

O 291605Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0046

S E C R E T STATE 219092

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 5027ACTION STATE INFO BEIRUT TEL AVIV  
AUG 28.

QUOTE S E C R E T DAMASCUS 05027

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MOPS, PINR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANON'S SYRIAN PRESENCE

REF: BEIRUT 4991

1. AS I POINTED OUT IN MY COMMENT ON THE DAO'S REPORT OF  
KHADDAM'S REMARKS, HE IS A MAN WHO LIKES TO EXAGGERATE FOR  
EFFECT. KHADDAM IS NOT A MILITARY ANALYST BUT A FRUSTRATED  
LAWYER. I DOUBT IF HE HAS ANY IDEA OF THE MILITARY COM-  
PLEXITIES INVOLVED IN CITY FIGHTING AND HE PROBABLY DOESN'T  
CARE. HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T EXPECT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY  
ON COMMENTS HE GLIBLY USES TO MAKE A DEBATING POINT IN

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PRIVATE.

2. KHADDAM DOESN'T MAKE THE DECISIONS ON LEBANON AND  
PARTICULARLY DOES NOT MAKE MILITARY DECISIONS. I AM  
CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD AND HIS GENERAL STAFF ARE  
WELL-AWARE OF THE CASUALTIES AND DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD  
BE INVOLVED IN OVERCOMING CHRISTIAN RESISTANCE IN THE

CENTER OF BEIRUT. IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT SYRIANS HAVE AVOIDED HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHTING AND HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY PREFERRED TO USE ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR ENDS. IF THE SYRIAN GENERAL STAFF DOESN'T ALREADY KNOW WHAT THE DIFFICULTIES ARE IN CENTRAL BEIRUT FIGHTING--WHICH I BELIEVE THEY MOST CERTAINLY DO-- THEN THEY SHOW A DETERMINED LACK OF ABILITY TO LEARN FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES. IN ANY CASE, THEY WOULD SUSPECT OUR MOTIVES IN PRESENTING SUCH AN ASSESSMENT, PARTICULARLY IF IT STRESSED THE DIFFICULTIES TO BE ENCOUNTERED.  
SEELYE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PLANS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE219092  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SHARP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PINR, LE, SY  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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